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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS
~~Patent claims~~

Subh21

1. Method for controlling a switching system which has a central control unit (MP) and a number of peripheral terminal devices, wherein
- a job message (mdg) is sent from one (AE) of the terminal devices to the control unit (MP),
- switching control actions (ak1, ak2, akn) are performed by the control unit in dependence upon the job message, and
- in case of successful performance of those actions, a corresponding performance message (dfn) is sent from the control unit to the terminal device.,

characterized in

that at the terminal device(s) (AE), any open job message (mdg) for which the associated performance message has not yet arrived after expiration of a specified wait time (tw) from the time of its sending is resent to the control unit and,

that at the control unit (MP), actions (ak1) of the switching control based on an arrived job message (mdg) are skipped if they were already processed by means of earlier job messages and/or are to be omitted on the basis of a preset rule.

2. Method according to claim 1,

characterized in

that when the job message is resent by the terminal device, the wait time (tw) for the arrival of the associated performance message starts to run again.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2,

characterized in

that at the terminal device the wait time (tw) is determined individually according to a preset rule as a function of the type of job message.

4. Method according to any of claims 1 to 3,

characterized in

that at the terminal device the sending of additional job messages is delayed upon exhaustion of a send window which describes a preset maximum number of job messages not answered by a performance message.

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5. Method according to claim 4,

characterized in

that the send window comprises two job messages.

6. Method according to claim 4 or 5,

characterized in

that additional job messages whose sending is delayed owing to the exhaustion of the send window are buffered in a queue.

7. Method according to any of claims 1 to 6,

characterized in

that at the control unit an acknowledgement message (dfn) by the control unit to the terminal device is omitted in the event of an interruption of the performed actions owing to an error.

10